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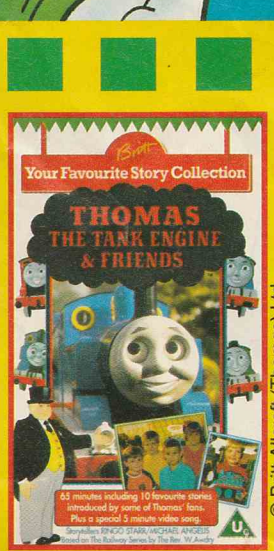
Marvel

1st Dec. 1995
No 212 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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WIN THOMAS VIDEOS!

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Stories! Activities! Competitions!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! Climb aboard for more stories and fun with Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! In our first story, Bill and Ben hope to have their picture in the local newspaper, but get more than they bargain for when they deliver **Engine plates!** Then you can enter our competition on page 9 for a chance to win a Thomas video. Find out why the engines are having their photographs taken in **Smile please.** Before you turn the page get your crayons, pens or paints ready for **Colouring time.** James has a few problems with the wet and windy weather in our final story, **Wet engines!** Plus, enter our competition and you could win a brilliant **Thomas lamp** for your bedroom. **Peep! Peep!**

Win A fantastic Thomas lamp!

Find out if your letter or drawing has been printed on pages 10 & 11!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial: Jenny Wackett; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Liz Stott,Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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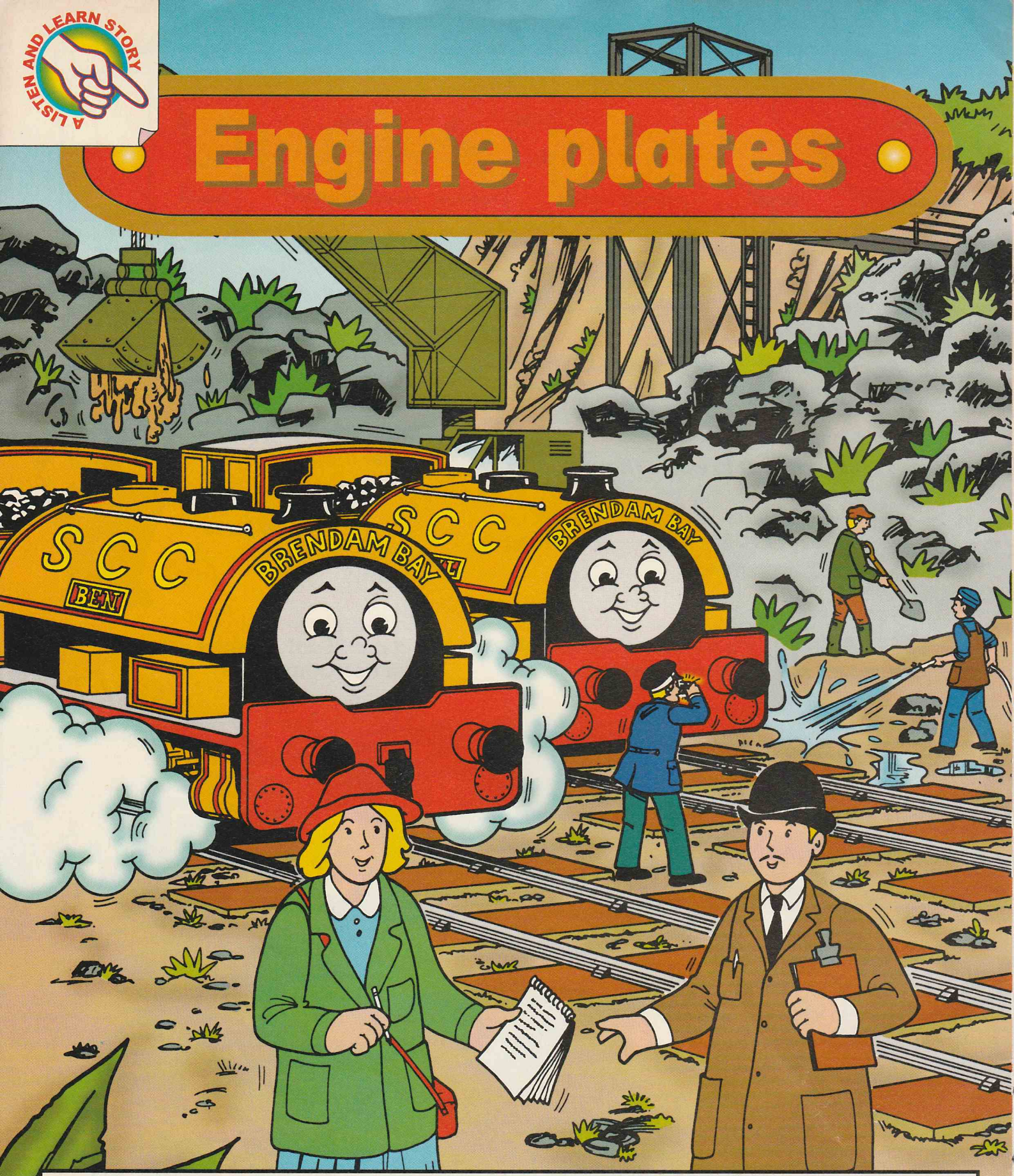
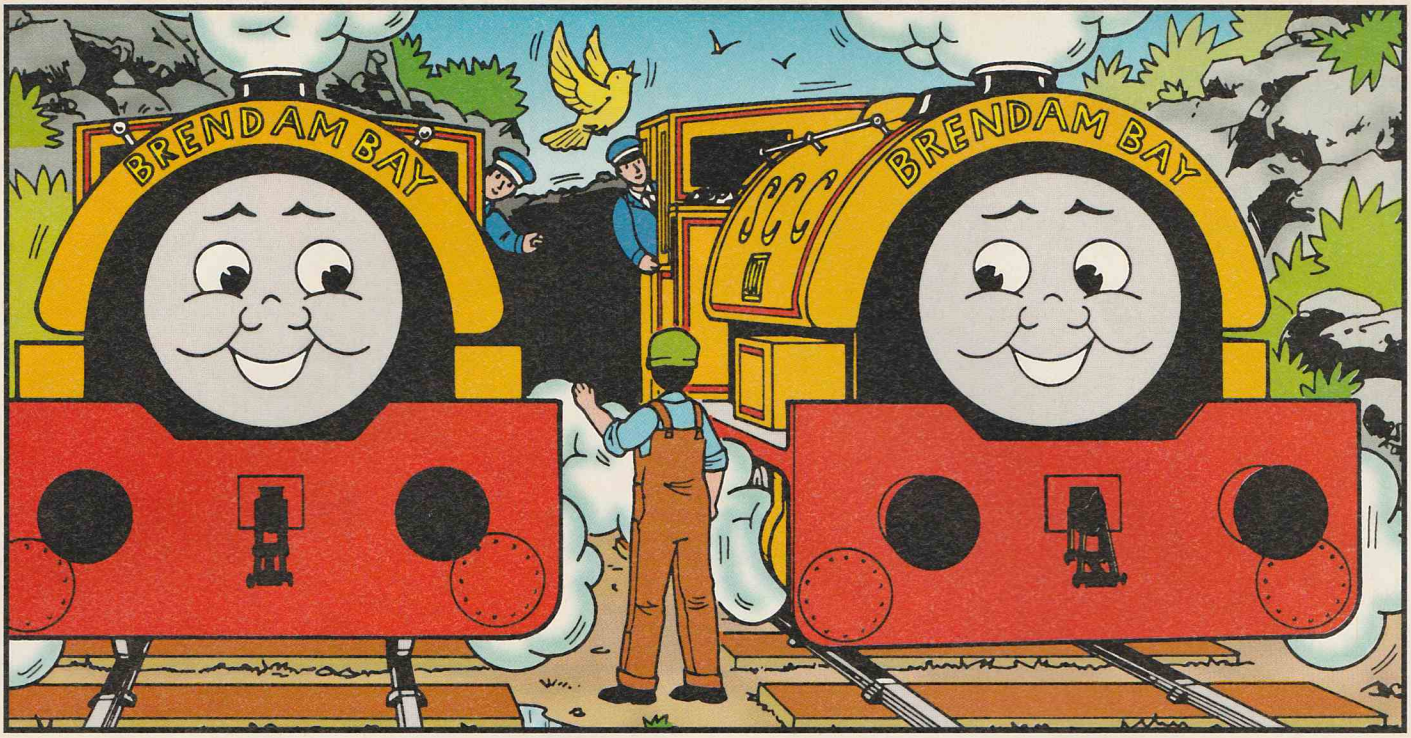
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Engine plates



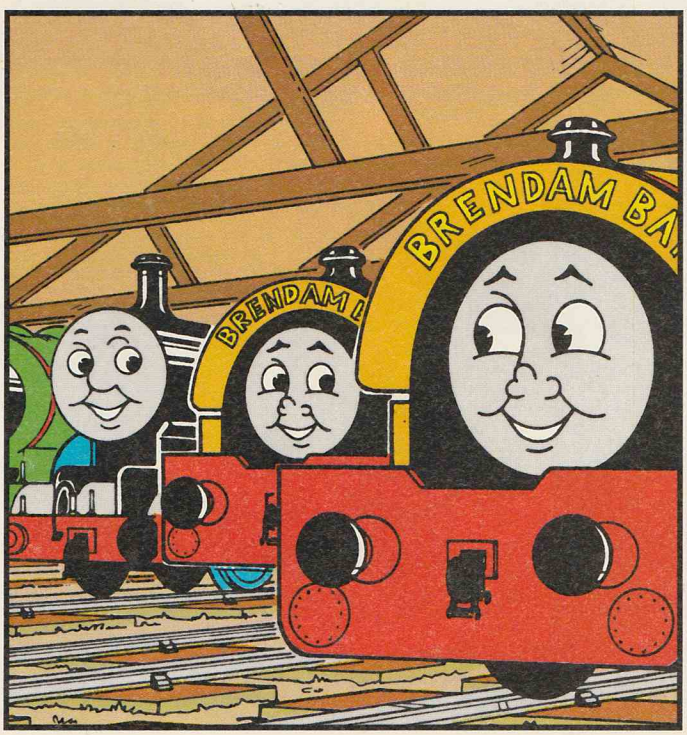
1. Bill and Ben, the Saddletank engine twins, were at Brendam Bay. As their trucks were being filled with china clay, they noticed a man taking photographs.

2. Nearby, a lady was asking the works manager questions and writing in a notebook. "What's going on?" called Bill, puzzled. "I wish I knew," replied Ben.



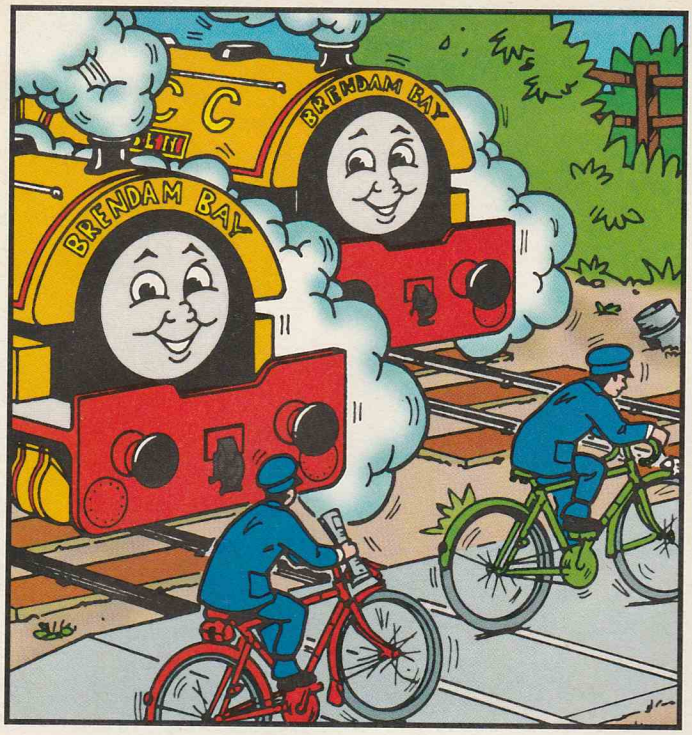
3. One of the workmen spoke to their drivers. "A photographer and reporter have arrived from the newspaper office to find out about our china clay," he explained.

4. "They're going to print the story in Saturday's paper," the man added. "Then we'll be in it, too, because we deliver the china clay!" puffed Bill, proudly.

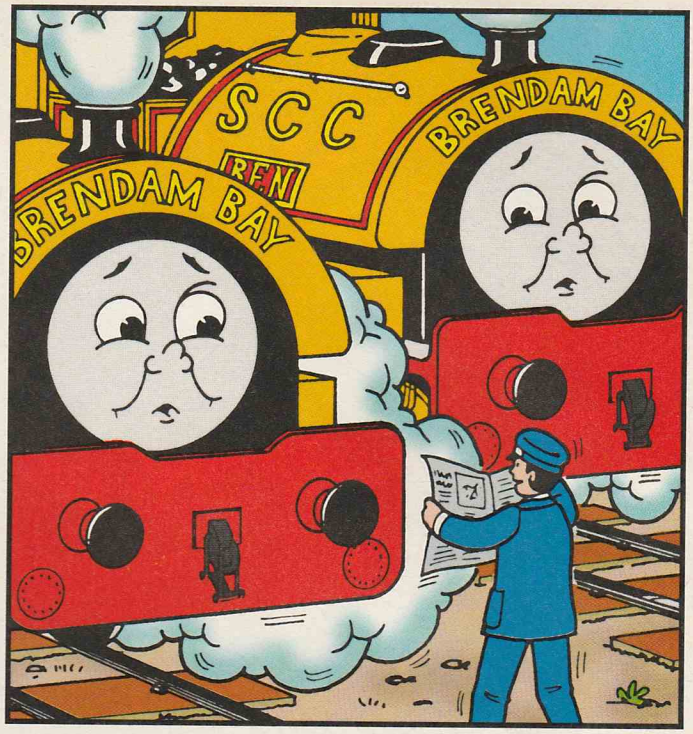


5. "Our pictures will probably be on the front page," replied Ben. "We'll be famous!" That night, after work, the twin engines told the other engines their exciting news.

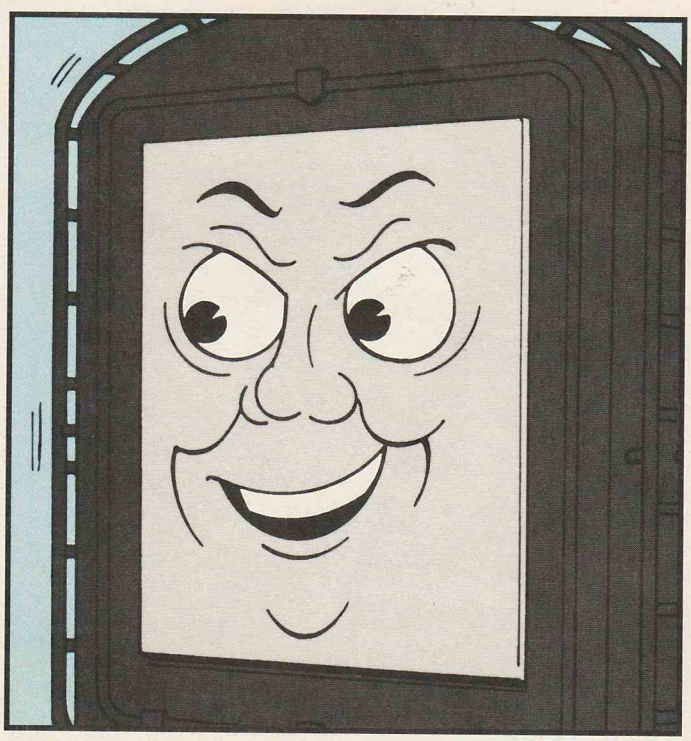
6. "Just wait until we appear in the paper this weekend," Bill and Ben boasted loudly, in the engine shed. "Our faces will be seen all over the Island of Sodor!"



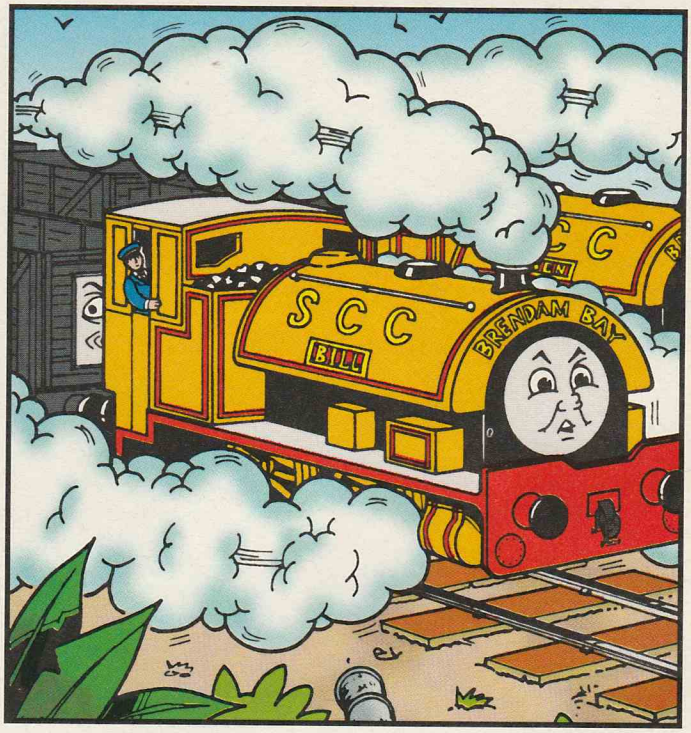
7. On Saturday, the twins were up bright and early to greet their drivers, who brought a copy of the newspaper to work. "Hurry! let's have a look!" said Bill and Ben.



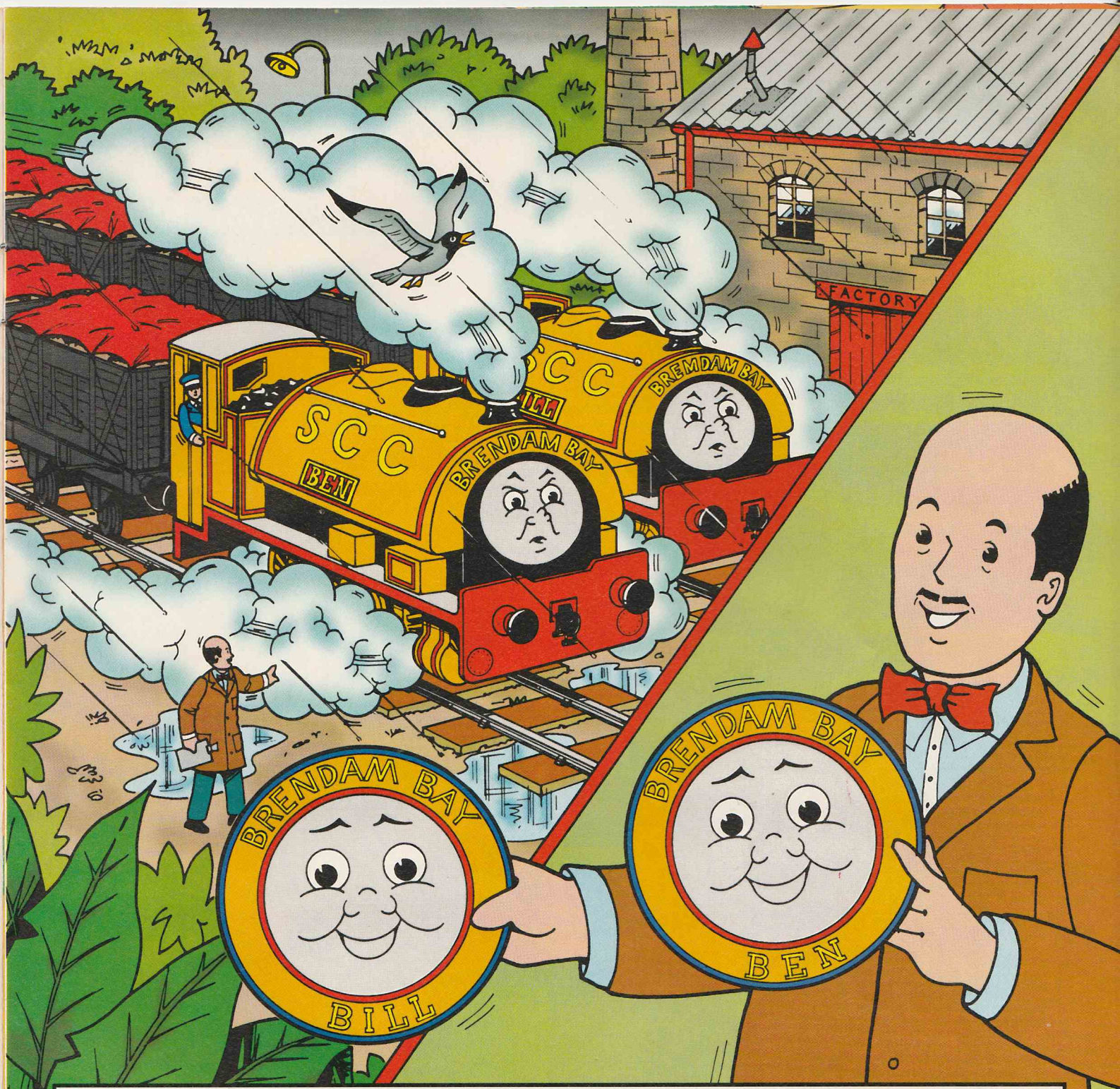
8. "There's nothing to see!" said Bill's driver. What a shock the twins had. There was a big story all about the clay pits. But Bill and Ben weren't even mentioned.



9. "It's not fair!" hissed Bill. "It's a disgrace!" fumed Ben. The twins felt very silly. "You won't want people to see your faces now, they're so red!" sneered Diesel.

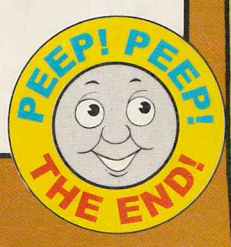


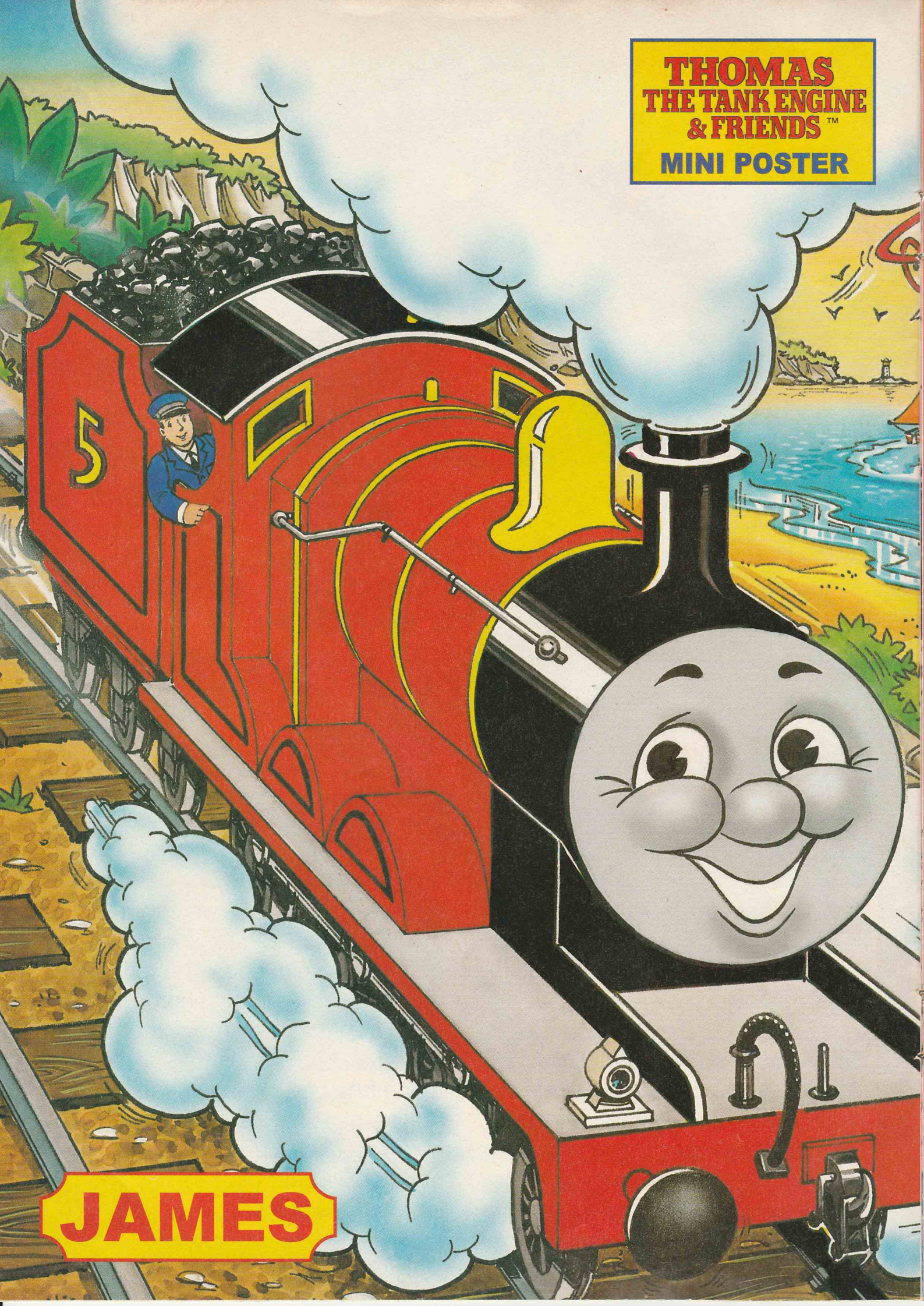
10. The twins were very unhappy. Next Monday they set off again for Brendam Bay, to collect more china clay. "It's wanted urgently at a factory," they were told.



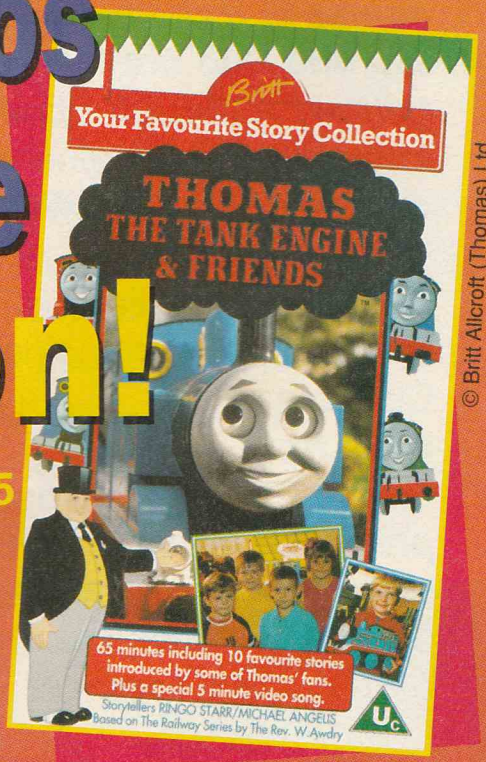
11. "It's all very well us being rushed off our wheels, but we get no thanks for it!" grumbled Bill. To make matters worse, it started to rain heavily. Before long, a gale had blown up, too. The wind blew into the twins' faces and made the going very hard. But Bill and Ben steamed on bravely and at last they arrived. The factory manager was pleased to see them.

12. "Thanks to you, we can use this china clay to make porcelain plates," he said. Later, the manager gave a special plate to both Bill and Ben. They were amazed to see their faces painted on them. "We've made lots!" he said. "I'm sure these engine plates will sell very well!" "Our faces will be seen all over Sodor after all!" laughed the twins.




THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS™
MINI POSTER
5
JAMES

25 Thomas videos to be won!



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We have 25 of these special Thomas videos to give away! Each video has 10 of your all time favourite Thomas stories to watch, which include; **Thomas goes fishing** and **Down the mine!**

If you would like to win one of these great videos then just answer this easy question:

What are the names of Thomas's two faithful carriages?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: Thomas/Video Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX. Entries to be received by 5th December, 1995.

This competition is open to all readers accept employees and their families of participating companies. No responsibility will be taken for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

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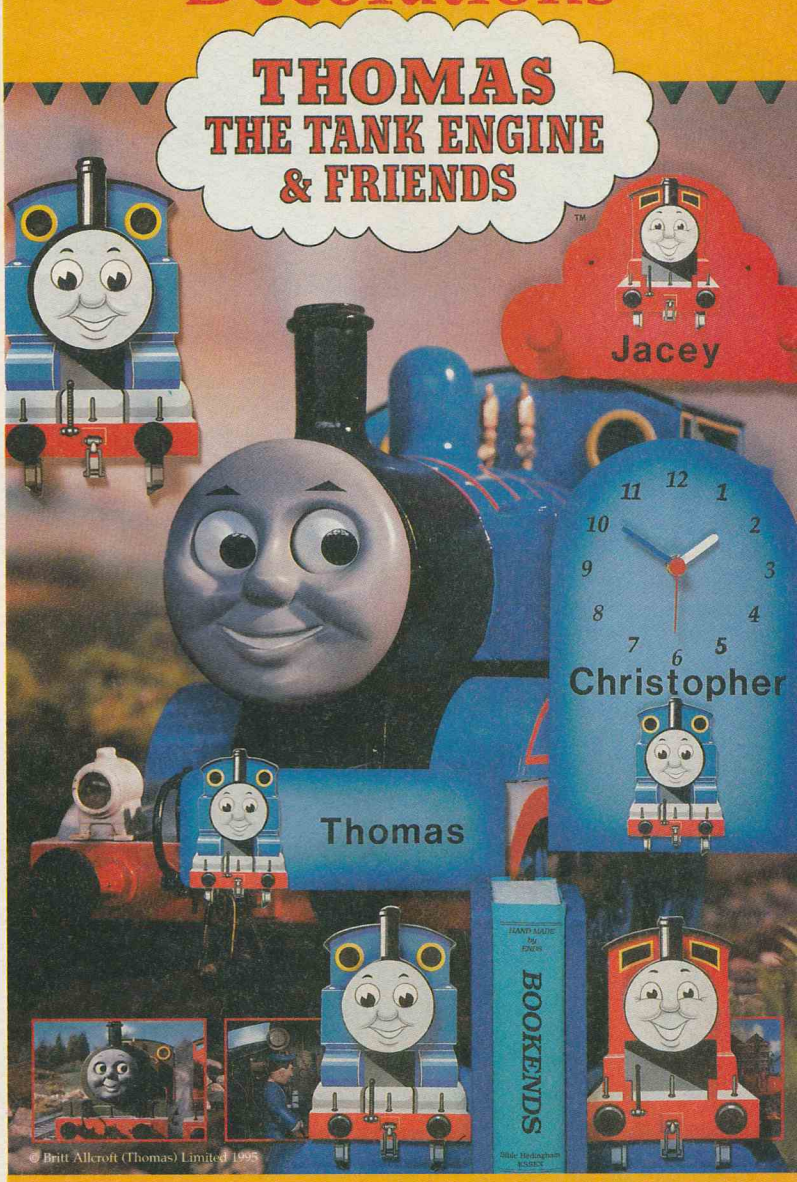

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YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do your engines have a Christmas holiday, or do they continue to work?
Love from Michael Jones, aged 4.
The engines are very busy at Christmas carrying passengers with their Christmas presents. The engines normally work until Christmas Eve, then I like to give them two days off for a rest!

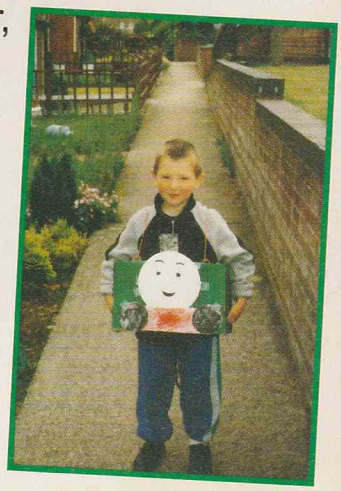
Dear Fat Controller,
James is my favourite engine because I like his bright red colour. Why don't you have any other bright coloured engines?
Love from Liam Brandon Smith, aged 2.

James is a really bright engine but Bill and Ben are a lovely shade of yellow! Although appearance is important, an engine's efficiency on the railway is what matters!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you buy your engines presents at Christmas time?
Love from Sarah Taylor, aged 4.
I don't buy my engines Christmas presents, but I do order a lovely new load of coal from the Mainland. Then, I share it out between the engines!

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT!

Dear Fat Controller,
here is a picture of me with my engine costume that I made out of a big cardboard box! It took me a long to make and I hope that you like it!
Love from
Oliver Birt.



BIRTHDAYS

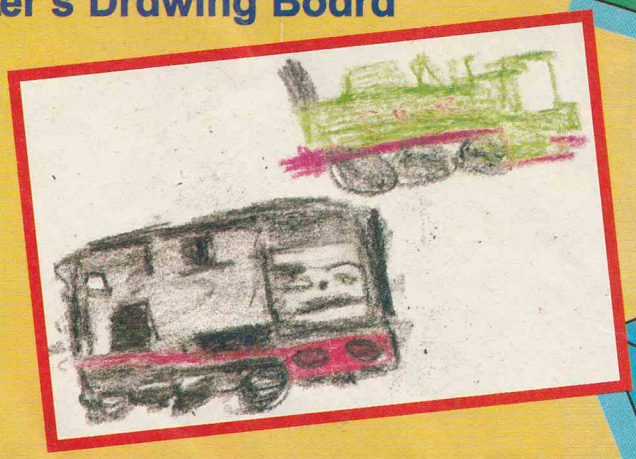
Birthday wishes, from all the engines, go to...

Simon Llewellyn, Ian Goldsmith, John Brookes, Peter Marchant, Alex Wilson.

Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board

Steven Sanders has sent in this great picture of Diesel and Duck! Well done!

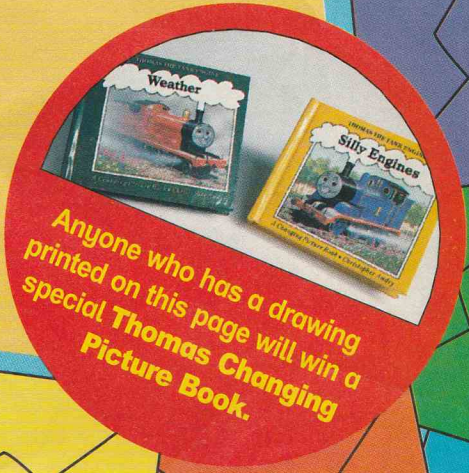


Thomas looks great on this sunny picture, as drawn by Adrian Rudge, aged 7!

Here's a bright picture of James the red engine. Thanks to Michael who's aged 5!

Josiah Knights who's 5 has drawn a superb picture of Percy going down the Branch line!

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on the page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

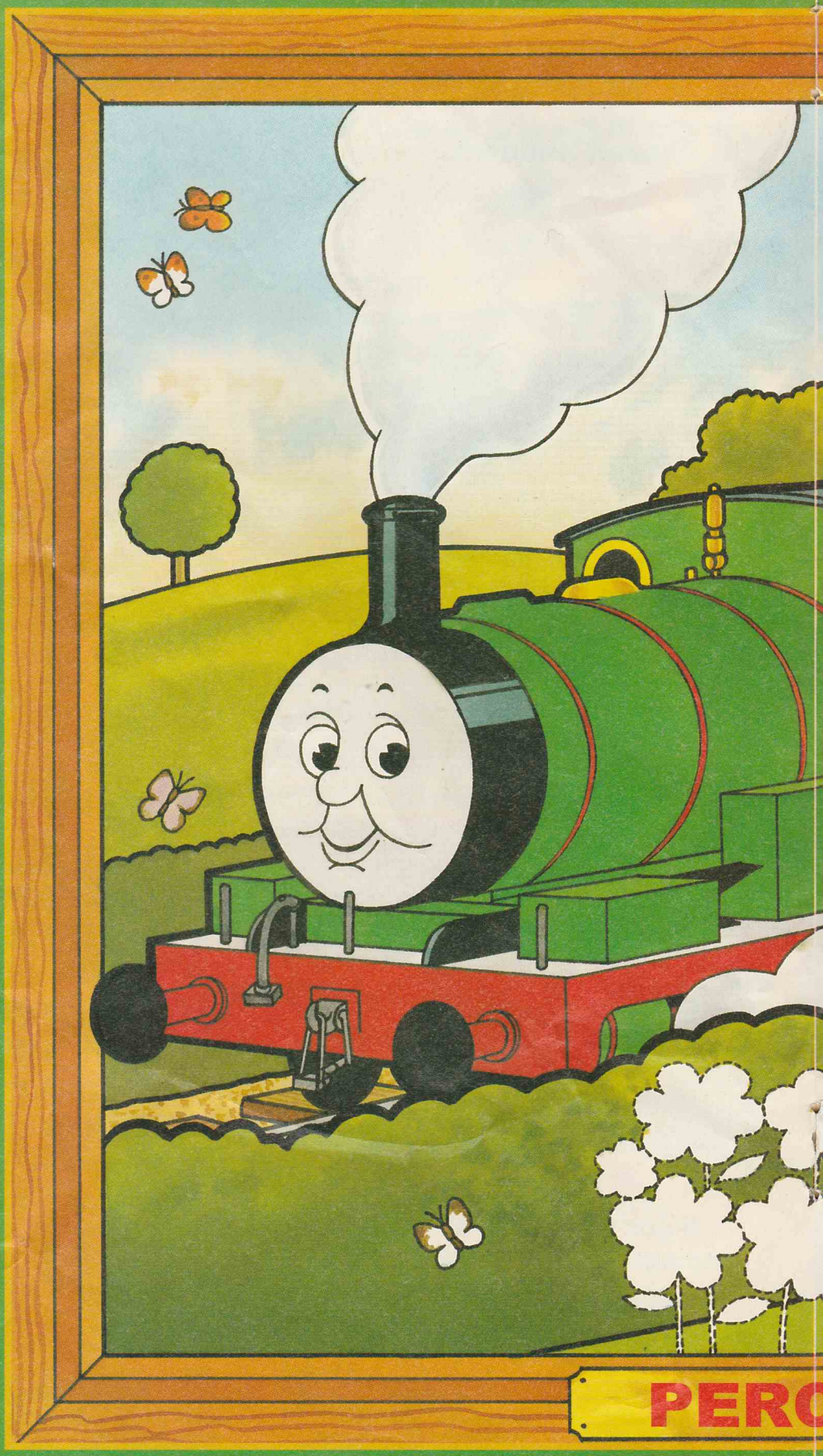
CUT OUT AND KEEP

Number G

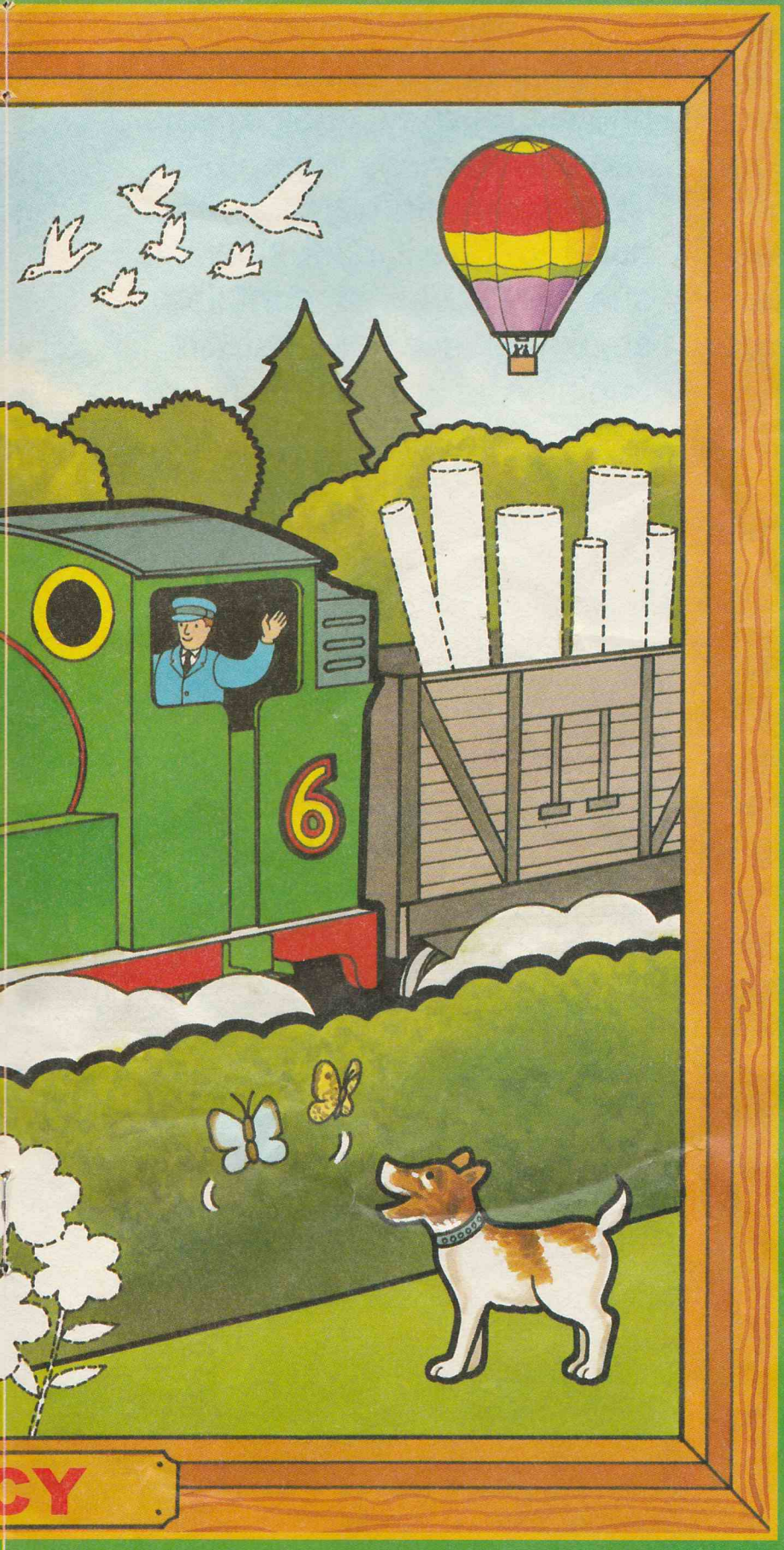
Here's Gallery picture number 6! Stick on your cut-outs to finish the picture and don't forget to cut-out and keep the sections needed to finish the mural in the next issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends!

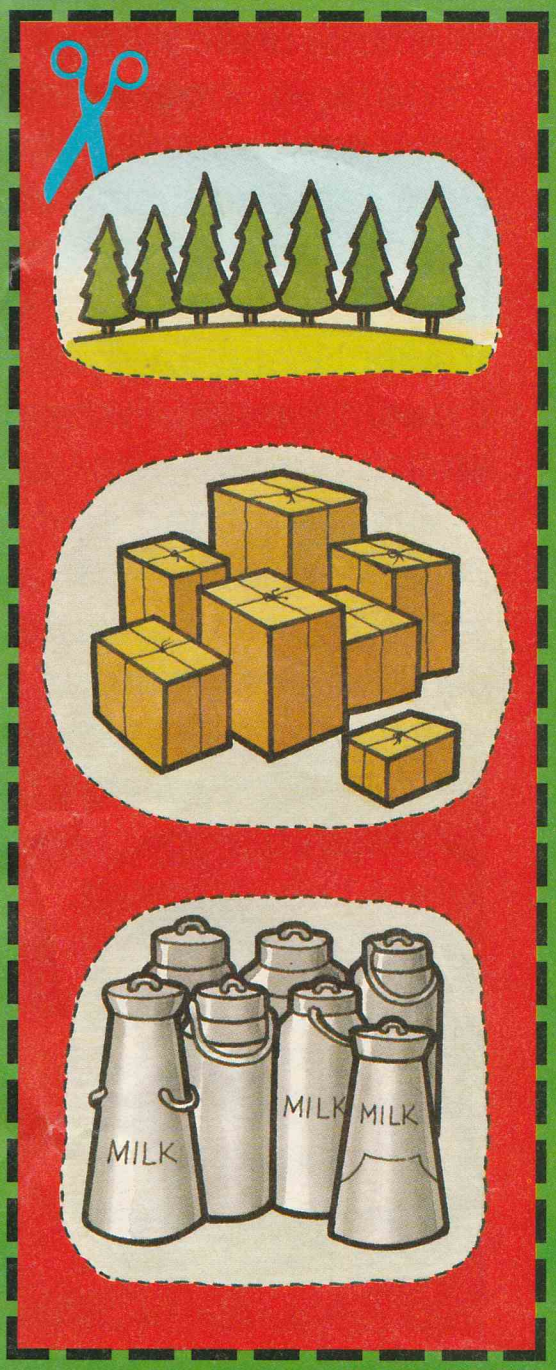
Here we go with some number fun: I wonder what Percy can see?

High in the sky
there's a big
balloon, can you see
its colours so
bright?
Flying above the
fields of green,
it is a beautiful
sight!



Gallery 6





Smile, please!

One gloomy morning, a few weeks before Christmas, Percy took a goods train through a tunnel. As he came rushing out the other end, he blew big clouds of smoke and steam.

Suddenly, there was a small flash near the track. Percy spotted a man in a red cap, taking a photograph of him. "I expect he thinks I'm a Really Useful Engine!" Percy thought, proudly. Later, in the station yard, he told James.

"That's strange!" said James. "A man photographed me as I climbed Gordon's Hill."

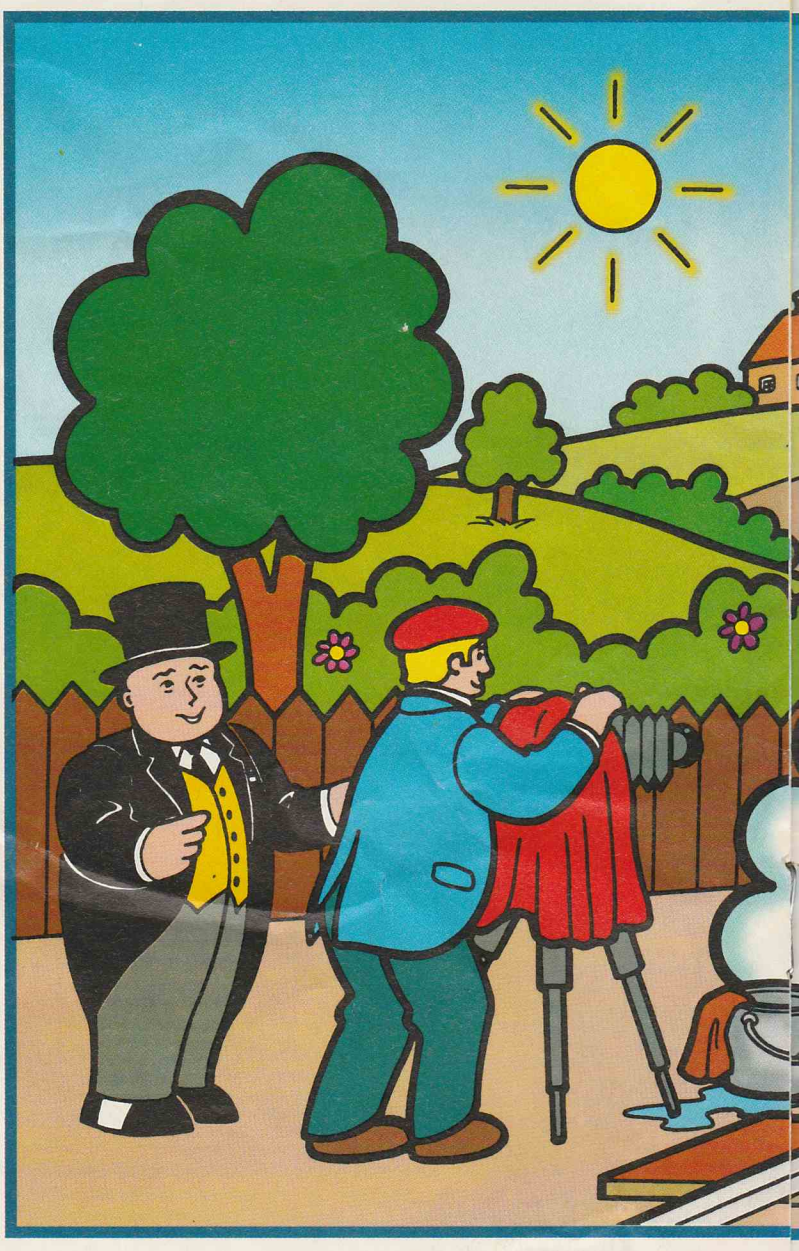
Next moment, Daisy came rolling smoothly up to them. "I'm such a modern diesel railcar," she boasted. "People stand and watch me go past. Why, one man even took my photo!"

"Was he wearing a red cap?" asked Percy.

"How did you know?" replied Daisy.

"Because he took our photos, as well," replied James.

Daisy was not very pleased. She liked to think she was more important than smoky, old-fashioned steam engines.



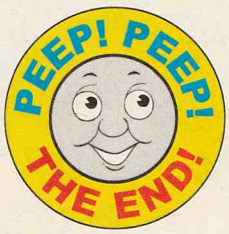
Later that week, the same man turned up at the Big Harbour. He snapped BoCo and Diesel, while cranes loaded up their trucks with goods brought by boat. He also photographed Mavis and Toby on the quarry line, and then Gordon powerfully pulling the Express. Soon only Thomas was left out.

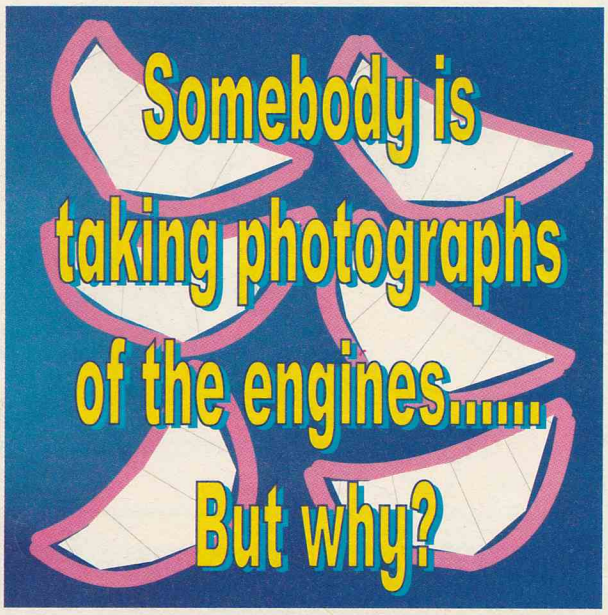
The next day was cold and wet. Thomas was puzzled when he had to wait in the shed while his friends began work. He was even more surprised when staff arrived to wash and polish his paintwork. Then the Fat Controller brought the photographer to see Thomas.

"I asked him to snap all the other engines at work," said the Fat Controller, "for a Christmas Railway Calendar to give to our passengers. But your picture is to go on the cover, Thomas. That's why you have to look your very best!"

"Smile!" the photographer said, holding up his camera.

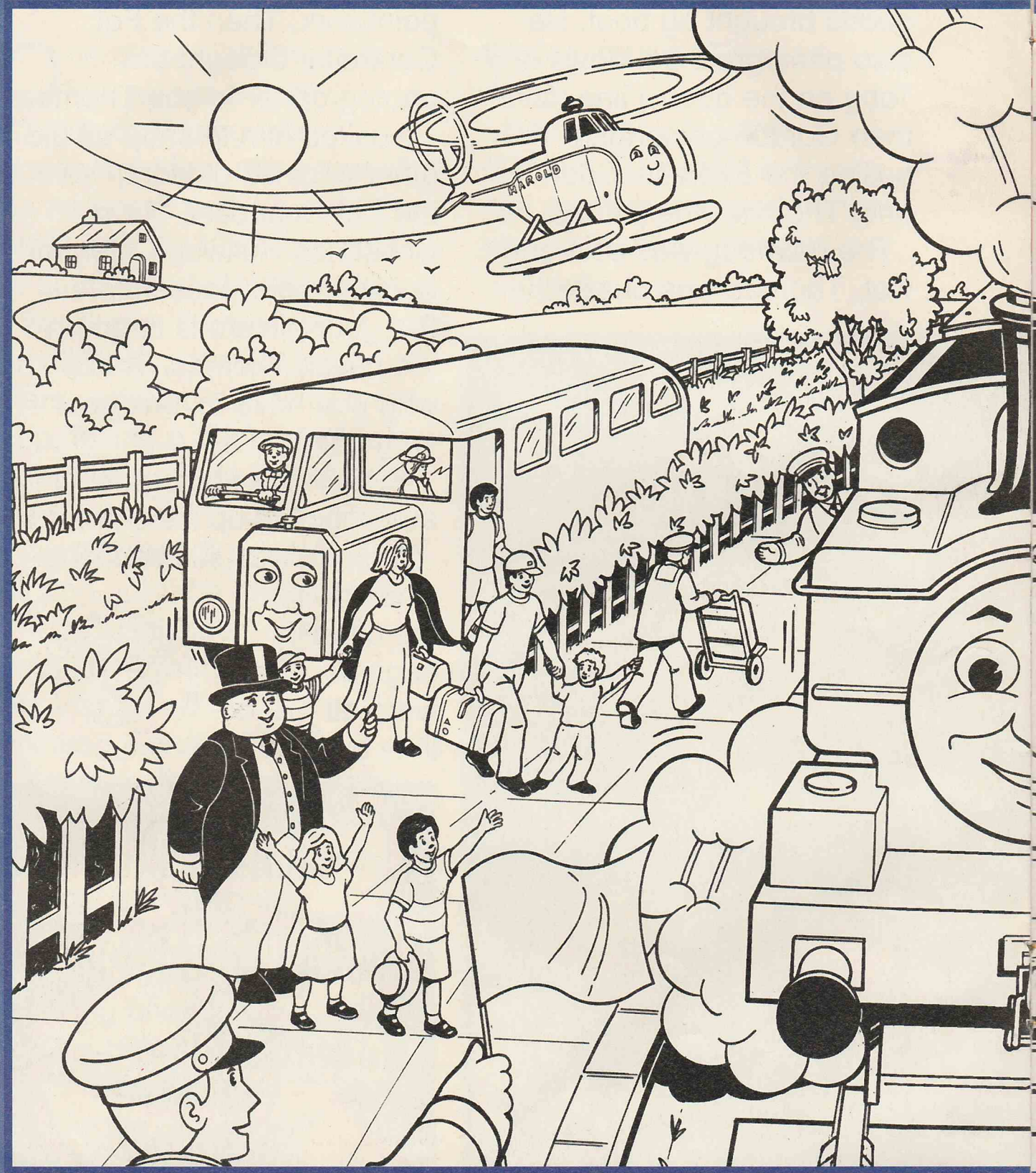
Thomas was still beaming when he told the other engines. They were all just a little bit jealous!





Colouri

Now it's time to have some fun,



How many engin
How many children

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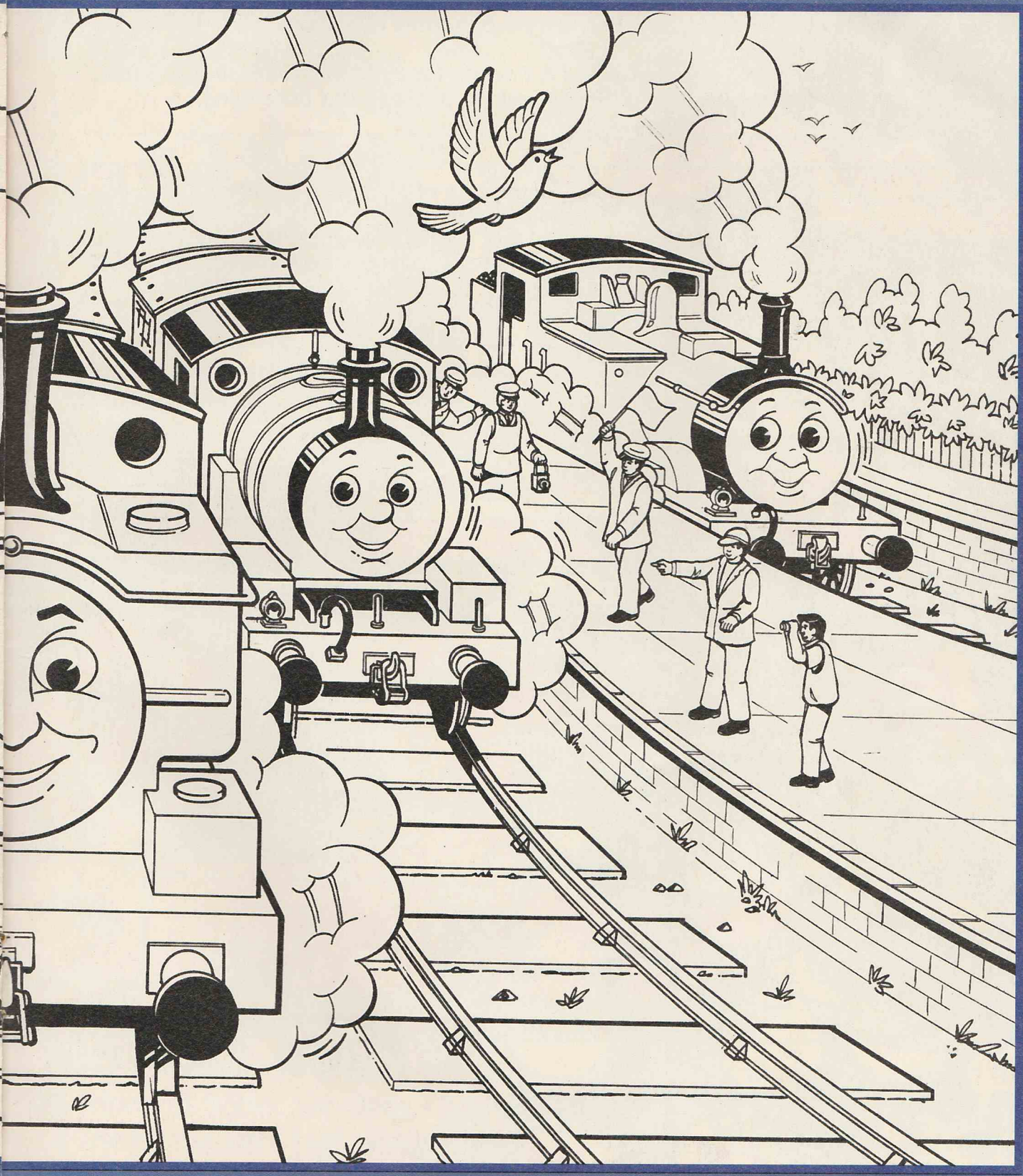
colour the engines one by one!



es can you see?

are in the picture?

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More stories!

More fun!

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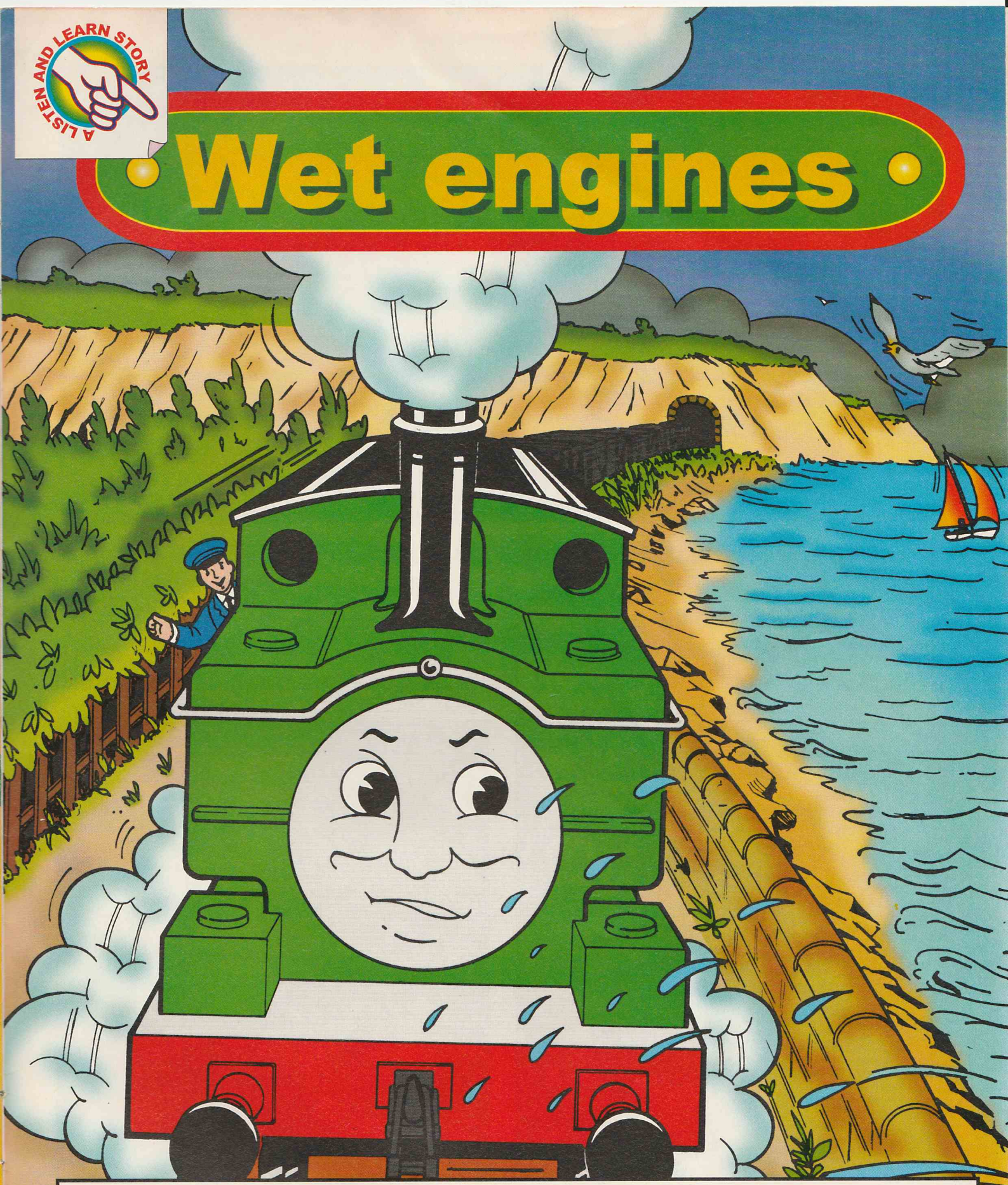
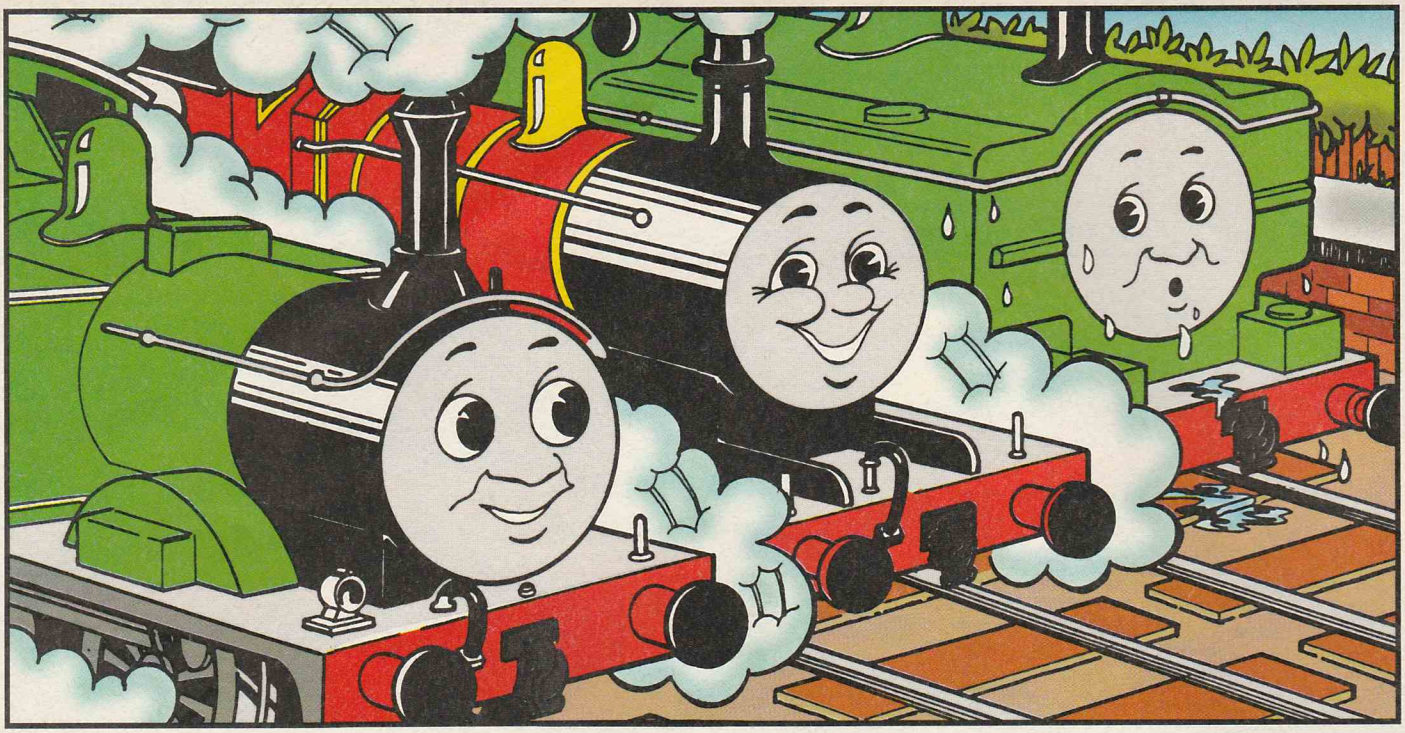


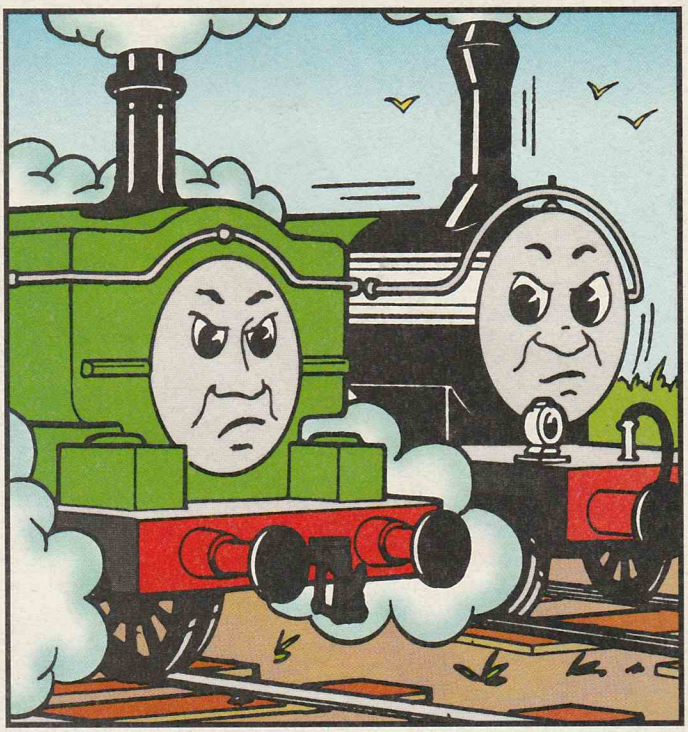
1. Winter storms lashed the Island of Sodor. On Duck's branch line by the sea, high winds blew spray over him, from waves that crashed onto the nearby beach.

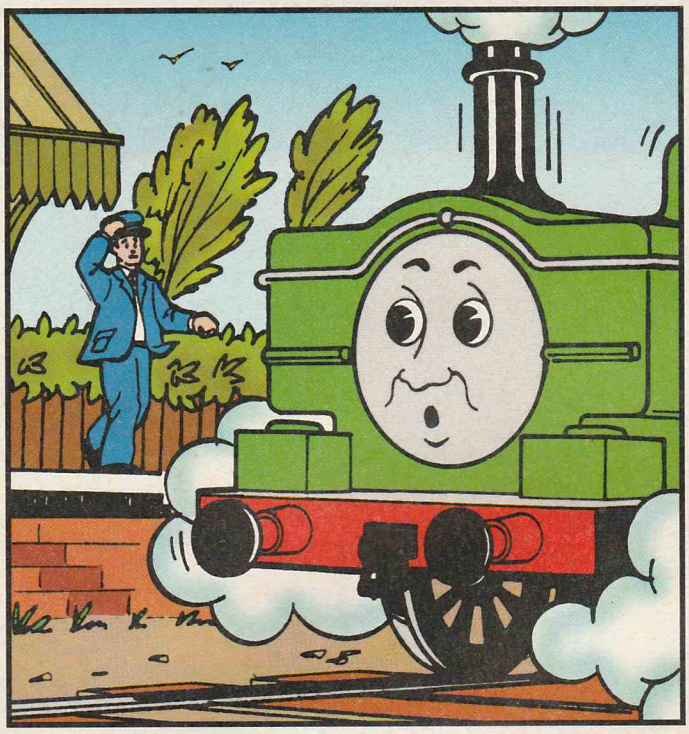
2. Poor Duck was soaked as he steamed along with a goods train. All the spray from the sea tasted salty and stung his eyes. Duck felt cold and miserable.



3. When he returned to the Main Station yard, Duck was dripping wet from his boiler to his buffers. It was just the same when Oliver used Duck's line.

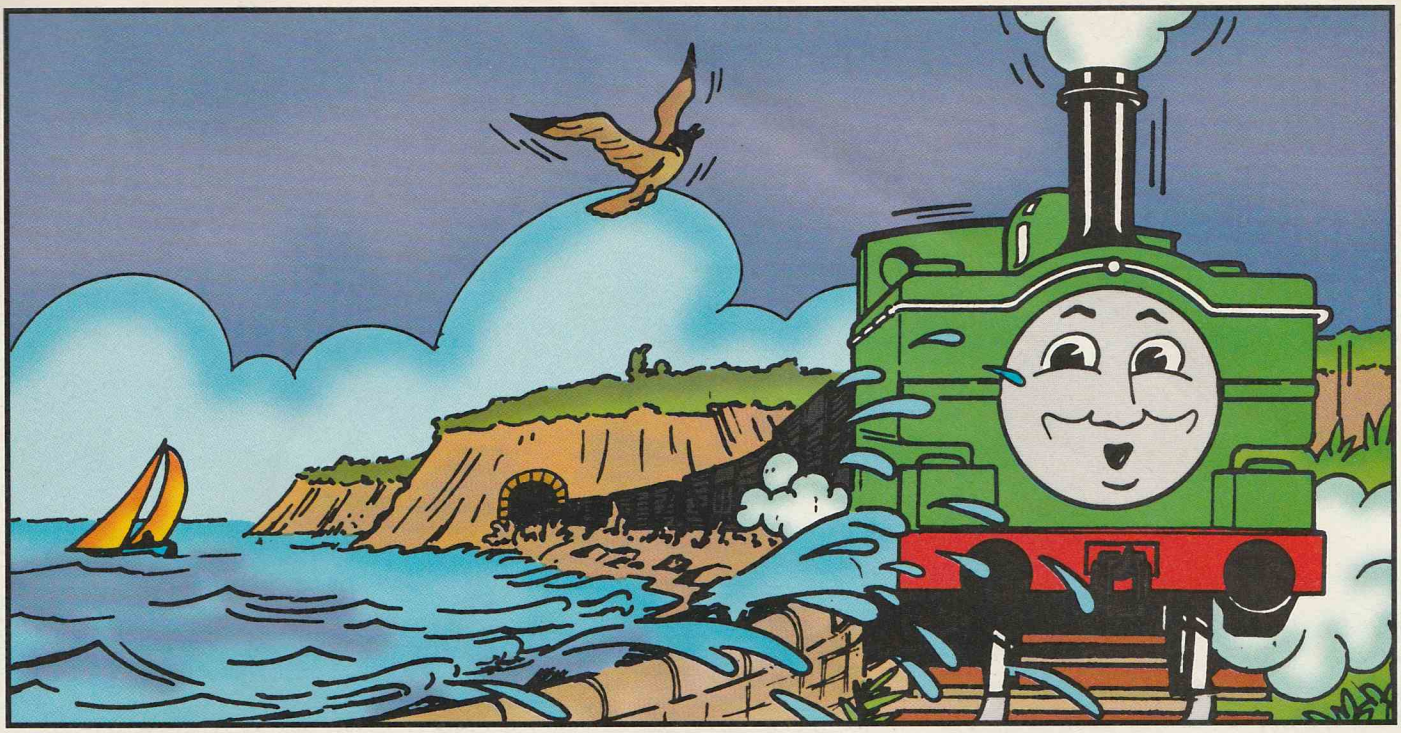
4. James, the Red Engine, heard the other two grumbling. "What harm can a drop of water do?" he sniffed. "It wouldn't bother me!" Duck and Oliver were very cross.





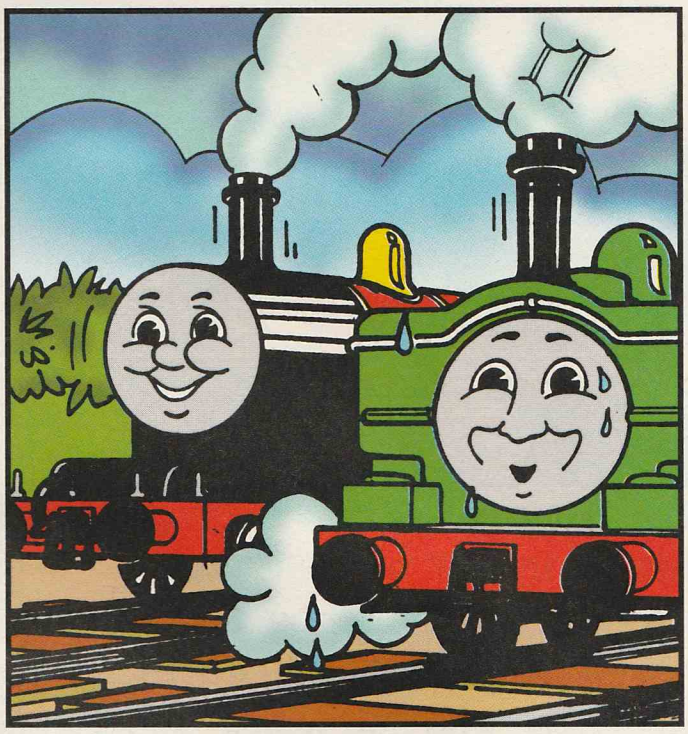
5. "Just listen to James!" Duck hissed. "He thinks he is so superior!" replied Oliver. "James doesn't know what it's like to rush past huge, roaring waves!"

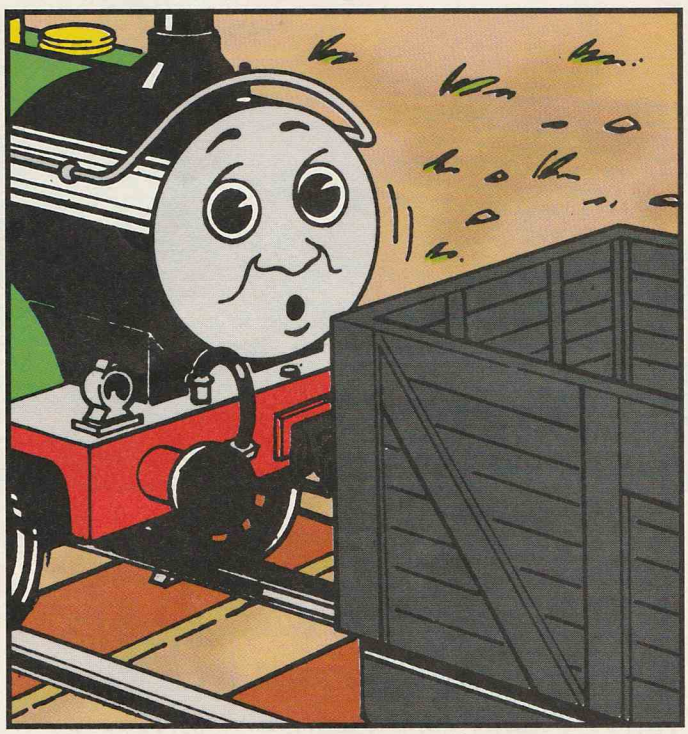
6. Next day, the weather was even worse. A gale blew so strongly that Duck felt nervous about using his branch line. Oliver had to stay and shunt trucks in the yard.



7. "Good luck, Duck!" he called. Duck was to collect some empty trucks. On his way back past the beach, the huge waves were bigger than he had ever seen them.

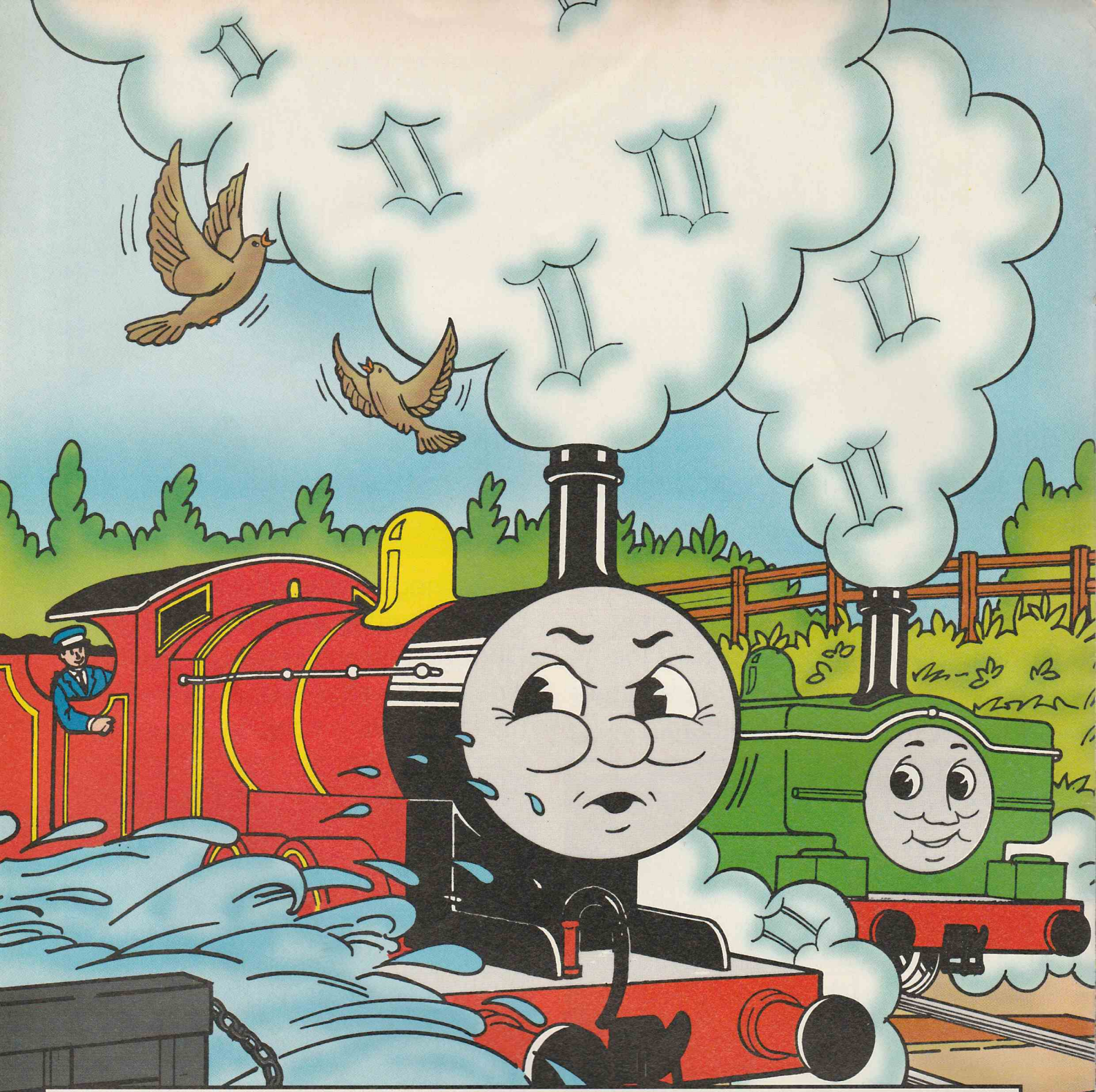
8. They battered the beach and almost flooded the track. SPLOSH! Duck steamed on bravely. But he was even wetter than before. All his trucks were soaking, too.





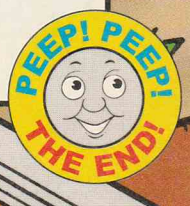
9. Duck arrived at the yard and released his trucks. "I'm wetter than ever!" he gasped. "A Really Useful Engine shouldn't worry about getting wet!" puffed James.

10. Then, Oliver rolled up behind Duck's trucks. But the rails were wet and his wheels slipped, so he bumped into the trucks, by mistake. "Oops! Sorry!" he cried.



11. Luckily, nobody was hurt. But the bump made the side of a truck burst open. James was standing next to it. There wasn't time for him to get clear before a wave of icy water gushed out of the truck. It splashed all over James's face, running into his eyes and mouth. "Ooh! Ahh! It's freezing!" he spluttered, angrily.

12. "How did all that water get into the truck?" asked Oliver, puzzled. "It's spray from the waves," said Duck. "My trucks have filled with sea water." James was very upset. He made an awful fuss. "Now you know what it's like to be soaked in sea water," said Duck. "I can't see for water!" grumbled James.



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